



## ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE

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GOVERNOR

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It has been four months since the horrific terrorist attacks on our nation. Since that time, the administration of Governor Ryan has been hard at work to enhance the safety and security of the citizens of Illinois and to do everything possible to protect against a terrorist attack in our state. Much has been done including a lot of hard work to ensure the lines of communication are open between state, county, and local governments. These weekly updates are part of that communication effort. This is the ninth update. Previous updates are posted on the Illinois Emergency Management Agency website at [www.state.il.us/iema](http://www.state.il.us/iema).

- The Federal Trade Commission recently contacted a number of Internet marketers of bioterrorism products to caution them that their products must meet strict standards and testing before being advertised as capable of deterring biological and chemical threats. The Commission is focusing on Internet providers of such items as gas masks, air filters, protective clothing, and ultraviolet light mechanisms whose client base may include private citizens seeking some measure of personal security against a bio-chemical attack. The warnings were part of the Federal Trade Commission's efforts, in cooperation with the Food and Drug Administration, 30 state attorney generals, and the California Department of Health Services, to coordinate an Internet "surf" of potentially misleading bioterrorism products. The campaign has identified more than 200 Internet sites marketing bioterrorism-related products and has resulted in 121 warnings to web-based merchants. Illinoisans are urged to thoroughly research an item before purchasing any anti-terrorist or bio-chemical protection product through conventional or web merchants.
- This week marks the first in a series of practical tips offered by the State Department on how private citizens can contribute to the fight against terrorism by using their observation skills. The first installment addresses commuters:

Your daily commute may take you past a potential terrorist target. Possible targets include electrical generating and transmission facilities, oil refineries and pipelines, dams and hydropower facilities, major bridges and tunnels, armed forces installations, municipal water supplies, mass transit systems, and other sites whose disruption would threaten our well-being. Watch for unusual changes in the routines you observe day-in, day-out. Pay attention if you see unusual activities or observe vehicles or individuals that seem suspicious. Contact the authorities immediately if you see any signs of tampering or structural failure.

- As of January 7, IDPH's Division of Laboratories has received 1,552 samples for anthrax testing. All have been processed and are negative for anthrax.
- On December 31, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) staff met with the Chicago Fire Department (CFD) to review various bioterrorism response procedures and to conduct a postmortem on the handling and processing of suspect anthrax samples. Some of the issues addressed at the meeting were:
  1. Amount of testing that has to be done by the CFD.
  2. Coordination with Chicago Police Department.
  3. Threat assessment by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
  4. The need for an evaluation.
  5. Coordination efforts between Chicago and the state.
  6. The potential need for weekend coverage by the IDPH Laboratory.
  7. Expanded testing capability, i.e., ricin and chemicals.
  8. Validity of current testing methodologies by the CFD.

A follow-up meeting will be conducted in late January to discuss the issues in greater detail.

- On January 21, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will distribute a follow-up survey on the original readiness assessment (conducted in May 2000) to all hospitals in Illinois. The survey will provide IDPH and hospitals with substantial information regarding the hospitals' capacities to address bioterrorism threats, and will be utilized by IDPH to assist hospitals in developing bioterrorism response procedures, provide needed training to hospital staff, acquire and distribute federal funding, and prepare statewide emergency response procedures. The survey addresses emergency contact information, decontamination capacity, disaster planning, resource availability (staff and equipment), staff training needs, communication

capability, disease surveillance and epidemiology experience, laboratory capabilities, and critical drug inventory. Hospitals will be required to submit their survey in February.

- On January 10, the Illinois Department of Public Health, Chicago Department of Public Health, and Cook County Department of Public Health met in Chicago to discuss the coordination of bioterrorism preparedness and surveillance activities. Coordination areas discussed at the meeting included: planning (status of bioterrorism preparedness plans), interfaces (bioterrorism efforts with state and local health departments - postmortem of past responses), and surveillance response protocols.
- The Department of Agriculture worked with Dr. Bieritz, Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA) Emergency Coordinator, prepare a letter and questionnaire for county veterinarians soliciting their support for foreign animal disease (FAD) preparedness.
- As part of the Future Farmers of America's "Business in America" program, sponsored by the Illinois Pork Producers Association, the Department of Agriculture presented a foreign animal diseases and Illinois' preparedness planning program to the FFA Section Presidents and State Officers.
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources Officers continue rural patrols in the vicinity of state nuclear power stations, Lake Shelbyville and Heidecke Lake. Lake Michigan patrol boats have now been winterized, and officers have switched from water-based patrols to land-based patrols.
- On January 7, the Illinois Army National Guard began federal activation of the 66th Infantry Brigade and subordinate units from various locations throughout the state. By February 3, nearly 1,300 soldiers of the Brigade will have mobilized for a mission in Europe, which is the largest deployment of Illinois National Guard soldiers since the Korean War. The approximate length of the mission is nine months. Unit deployments include: Decatur, Chicago, Elgin, Aurora, Mattoon, Effingham, Bartonville, Woodstock, Litchfield, Bloomington, and Kankakee.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team (WMD) located in Bartonville has been selected to support the 2002 Winter Olympics in Utah. The support period will be a 5-7 day mission.
- The Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Division of Aeronautics is continuing to

address general aviation airport security issues in the state. IDOT is coordinating with IEMA to establish an aviation-based subcommittee of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force. The working group will report general aviation airport issues to the Task Force, and in turn, help in the implementation of any recommendations.

- The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) is responding to a number of requests for radiation emergency and RAD/HAZMAT response training received from municipal first responder agencies and medical service providers. The training requests, developed from the Statewide Homeland Security Workshop Seminars conducted last fall, are being met on a priority basis.
- Research continues on technology options to enhance the Nuclear Accident Reporting System (NARS). The NARS is a communications link between nuclear plant sites which state and local governments use to notify authorities of emergency situations. An upgrade to the system has been under consideration for more than a year.
- Preparations for a full-scale, federally-evaluated exercise of the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents (IPRA) at the LaSalle Station in March are underway. This will be the first of three such exercises this calendar year, and brings the total number of nuclear plant exercises in Illinois to nearly 75 since the IPRA program began in 1982.
- IDNS continues to answer media inquiries related to various federal proposals to stockpile potassium iodide (KI) tablets for use by the public. State policy currently does not promote the use of KI for the general population based on the capabilities and efficiency of the State's radiological emergency plans.
- More than 20 senior American Red Cross (ARC) officials, including senior management, disaster staff and key volunteer leaders, returned from the Red Cross' National Disaster Leadership Conference held in Dallas, Texas. The conference addressed issues of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), among other disaster-related topics. As a follow-up to the conference, Illinois Red Cross leaders are planning to convene a statewide summit for Red Cross disaster volunteers, chapter staff, and professionals from the Red Cross' blood banks. The purpose of the

summit is to review existing plans and procedures and, in conjunction with new national Red Cross priorities presented at the Disaster Conference, to develop a stronger, comprehensive plan for a more unified Red Cross response in Illinois.

- The Local Government Disaster Volunteer Service Act (Public Act 92-0095) became effective January 1, 2002, and provides up to 20 days of paid leave for local government employees to serve on a disaster with the American Red Cross under certain conditions. The Act, which mirrors an existing program for state government employees, is permissive and does not mandate the leave provisions on units of local government. The Act, which passed the General Assembly unanimously, provides training opportunities for local government employees to be better prepared to respond to disasters, including a WMD event in their local community.

The Act can be accessed on the Internet at:

<http://www.legis.state.il.us/publicacts/pubact92/acts/92-0095.html>